

Edwards: Madison and Grimes County Citizens Without Power Eligible for FEMA Shelter Assistance to Stay in Local Hotels

(WASHINGTON, DC) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards today announced that citizens in Madison and Grimes Counties in Congressional District 17 who are without power due to Hurricane Ike are eligible for FEMA shelter assistance to help them stay in local hotels or motels until it is safe for them to go home. As federally designated hurricane disaster counties, citizens in Madison and Grimes Counties are also eligible for individual and public assistance for damages that resulted from Hurricane Ike.

“I encourage those individuals and families in Madison and Grimes County without power to register with FEMA immediately to determine if federal shelter assistance is available for them,” said Edwards. “In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, it is vital that federal, state and local authorities continue to work together diligently to protect and assist those in need.”

Edwards’s office has also been working with local, state, and federal officials to deliver ice, water, and food to Brazos Valley shelters.

Registration for individual, public, or shelter assistance can be done in the following ways:

- Telephone. Call the toll-free number 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) Speech- or hearing-impaired callers can use the TTY number 1-800-462-7585
- Internet. Go to www.fema.gov
- At a shelter or Disaster Recovery Center, via a telephone. This year, FEMA will begin using mobile registration intake units to will travel to areas where telephone service is not available.

When registering, applicants will need to provide the following information:

- Name and Social Security number
- Address of the damaged property
- Current address and telephone number
- Insurance information
- Total household annual income
- A bank routing and account number for direct deposit
- A description of your losses caused by the disaster

Applicants with questions about disaster assistance can call the Helpline:

1-800-621-FEMA. Speech- or hearing-impaired callers can use the TTY number
1-800-462-7585

Hurricane Ike left millions without power, thousands without a home to return to, and fuel, food, and ice shortages throughout the region. Currently, there are thousands of Hurricane Ike evacuees displaced throughout the Brazos Valley, and several counties are almost completely without power.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Edwards has pledged to work with the Texas delegation and leadership in the House and Senate to pass emergency appropriations to aid Gulf Coast recovery efforts before Congress adjourns at the end of the month.

“As the Brazos Valley opens its heart to fellow Texans in need, it is vital that Congress utilize federal funds swiftly to get the Gulf Coast region back on its feet,” said Edwards. “I am confident that Congress will pass emergency funding by the end of this month to assist our state and its citizens with recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Ike.”

Edwards is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee.

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